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annual report

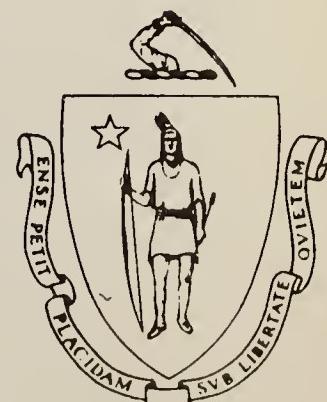
of the

massachusetts fire training council

and the

massachusetts firefighting academy

fiscal year 1976



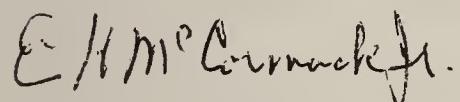
foreword

Since their establishment by the General Court in 1971, the Massachusetts Fire Training Council and Firefighting Academy have enjoyed continual growth and have been able to steadily expand the support they have provided for the Commonwealth's fire service.

Fiscal Year 1976 has been a most important year for the Firefighting Academy, with expansion of existing programs and addition of new activities, not only in areas of actual firefighting training, but in a number of special programs which have been undertaken in related areas. The 1973 General Court action which imposed an excise tax of one-quarter of one percent (up to \$500,000 per year) on fire related premiums paid to insurance companies operating in the Commonwealth, assigning the proceeds of that tax to fire training in the state, has given an immeasurable boost to Council-Academy activities. For the second consecutive year, this excise ultimately reimbursed the General Fund of the Commonwealth to the full extent of the Academy's annual budget.

Increased service to the fire community, as well as to the community at large was possible in several areas, including the initiation of a Master Planning project for the Massachusetts fire service; the coordination, with the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration (NFPCA), of the First New England Fire Safety Conference; the establishment of an Arson Action Group to attack the arson problem in the state in a viable way; the presentation of the Massachusetts Fire Chief Conference in cooperation with the Institute of Governmental Services of the University of Massachusetts; and an extensive revamping of the state's Civil Service procedures for firefighters, to mention but a few of the activities of the Training Council and Academy during Fiscal Year 1976.

The fire service, both statewide and nationwide, is undergoing tremendous growth in the 1970's, and Massachusetts is moving forward as a leader, working closely with NFPCA as the federal focus for fire prevention and control, and aiming toward the very best possible fire protection for Massachusetts.



Edward H. McCormack, Jr.
Chief of Fire Training

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bureau of fire training

The Bureau of Fire Training was established under provisions of Chapter 84 of the General Laws of 1971.

Its stated responsibility is to improve the training of firefighters in Massachusetts communities through the planning, development and operation of a highly specialized program for all firefighters in the Commonwealth, whether volunteer, call or paid, and providing for both pre-service and in-service training.

The Bureau is also mandated to encourage cooperation among communities on a regional basis, both in training activities and in the development of training resources.

From its position within the Division of Occupational Education of the Massachusetts Department of Education, the Bureau of Fire Training carries out its charge through its two segments, the Fire Training Council and the Firefighting Academy, directed by the Chief of Fire Training, Edward H. McCormack, Jr.

fire training council

The Fire Training Council, consisting of seven members appointed by the Governor of the Commonwealth, serves as an advisory body to the Bureau of Fire Training.

Members serve three-year staggered terms and are selected from among nominees submitted by various fire service groups within the state, including the Fire Chiefs Association, the Professional Firefighters, AFL-CIO-CLC, and the Institute of Fire Department Instructors. The Chief of Fire Training and the Associate Commissioner of Occupational Education serve as ex officio members of the Council.

The FY-76 Training Council make-up was: Chairman, Deputy Chief Morton Shurtleff (Brockton), Director Robert Blomquist (Arlington), Chief Edward Brock (Southboro), Chief Joseph Lawler (Wayland), Firefighter Frank Linscott (Lowell), Chief Philip Monroe (Dover), and Chief Fire Warden Sidney Thompson (Hubbardston).

Its duties include the establishment of training facilities at a permanent central location plus a number of regional training centers, determination of minimum standards for all firefighter levels, provision of assistance to local training centers in meeting those standards, establishment of a system of requirements for instructors and training facilities, and consultation with all institutions involved in fire training.

The Training Council has been particularly active in Fiscal Year 1976. In addition to participation in a number of special programs as outlined in this report, such as master planning, the Arson Action Group, the instructors professional improvement seminar in conjunction with the Delaware State Fire School, the gas firefighting project, many other areas related to the future growth and development of the Commonwealth's fire service were discussed and acted upon during the Council's regular monthly meetings in FY-76.

Close contact has been maintained with the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration (NFPCA), enabling Massachusetts to be consistently in the forefront of fire service modernization throughout the United States. The master planning project, discussed more fully on pages 17 and 18, is an example of the kinds of projects being encouraged by the national administration in its role as the focus of fire service growth and development for the future. In addition, the Training Council met with the director of NFPCA's National Fire Data Center to discuss initiation of a data collection, analysis and dissemination system in Massachusetts, has taken a firm stand on the development of a single, coordinated state agency for fire service needs within the Commonwealth, and is moving toward a proposal for a comprehensive five-year training and education program for the state's fire prevention and suppression needs.

The Council drafted legislation which would establish a minimum level of mandatory training for firefighters in Massachusetts, as well as setting a one-year probationary period for recruit firefighters, and worked closely with the Associated Firefighters to assure that the final version of the legislation would be acceptable to both groups.

With the goal of improved communication among the various fire service groups within the state, Massachusetts Joint Council of Fire Service Organizations was initiated by the Training Council last year, and has met three times since its inception. Represented in the Joint Council are: the Massachusetts Fire Chiefs Association; the Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts; the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors; the Massachusetts Fire Prevention Association; the Massachusetts Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators; the Fire Apparatus Maintenance Association; the State Fire Marshal's Office; the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy; the Board of Regional Community Colleges and the Massachusetts Fire Training Council.

Legislation, aimed at providing more varied representation of these and other groups in the Training Council itself, is currently pending, and would allow for a revised Council membership of four Chiefs from fire departments of various sizes and types, plus one each representing the following: the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors; the Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts; the Massachusetts Fire Prevention Association; a private fire protection association; an insurance agency writing fire insurance policies; an Emergency Medical Technician; the Chief of Fire Training; the State Fire Marshal; the Fire Science Department from a Community College; the Chief Fire Warden; the Massachusetts League of Cities and Towns; and the Massachusetts Chapter of International Association of Arson Investigators.

A proposed procedure for use by municipalities in entry-level and promotional examinations has been drafted after a number of requests for assistance in this activity were received by the Council from communities which are not involved in the Civil Service system. This proposal will be operational in the very near future, and included both written and physical testing.

In other matters, the Training Council has worked in cooperation with the New England-based manufacturer of firefighting foams and appliances in the development of an instructional manual for foam firefighting; has studied the value of regional advisory committees for the Council, has interacted with the fire science sections of the Community Colleges, and has supported the Firefighting Academy in its search for larger, more useful facilities.

firefighting academy

Mandated under Chapter 842 of the General Laws of 1971 as the sole agency of the Commonwealth responsible for the training of firefighters, the Firefighting Academy provides both basic and specialized training for all fire service personnel in Massachusetts, whether volunteer, call or paid, employed by the community, county, state, industry or the military.

Working out of headquarters in Stow, which are leased from the Department of Natural Resources, the Academy operates regional courses, without cost to either firefighters or their municipalities, at a wide range of locations throughout the state.

Academy programs to date have provided basic training for recruit firefighters, maintained or upgraded the proficiency of existing firefighters in essential skill areas, increased the technical and leadership abilities of fire officers, offered professional training and improvements for fire instructors, as well as having offered specialized courses on such topics as high rise fires, management and collective bargaining.

The Academy has also been actively involved in a number of special programs during this fiscal year, which are detailed in the following pages.



current course offerings

In the five years that have passed since its inception, the Firefighting Academy has striven to provide superb training in all aspects of fire-fighting, with the two-pronged goal of making Massachusetts firefighters the best trained in the United States, and aiming toward the establishment of a single, centralized, modern and fully-equipped state Academy as the hub of a statewide fire training network.

With these goals in mind, and maintaining its thrust toward providing the most efficient and effective training possible, the Academy is currently working, together with the Fire Training Council and representatives of the state's fire service organizations, on a complete revision of its course structure through a Master Planning project.

This complete re-evaluation of needs, and the development of a revised curriculum based on recognized needs, is expected to be completed in calendar year 1977. During the intervening time, in order to maintain a comprehensive training schedule, the Academy is offering a series of training packages designed to meet the current demands of the Massachusetts firefighter. These courses cover a wide range of subject areas, and, as always, are offered at numerous locations throughout the Commonwealth, by request of area department chiefs, both individually and in the new "Weekend Fire Schools," in which several courses are presented coterminously.

Courses offered during Fiscal Year 1976 included:

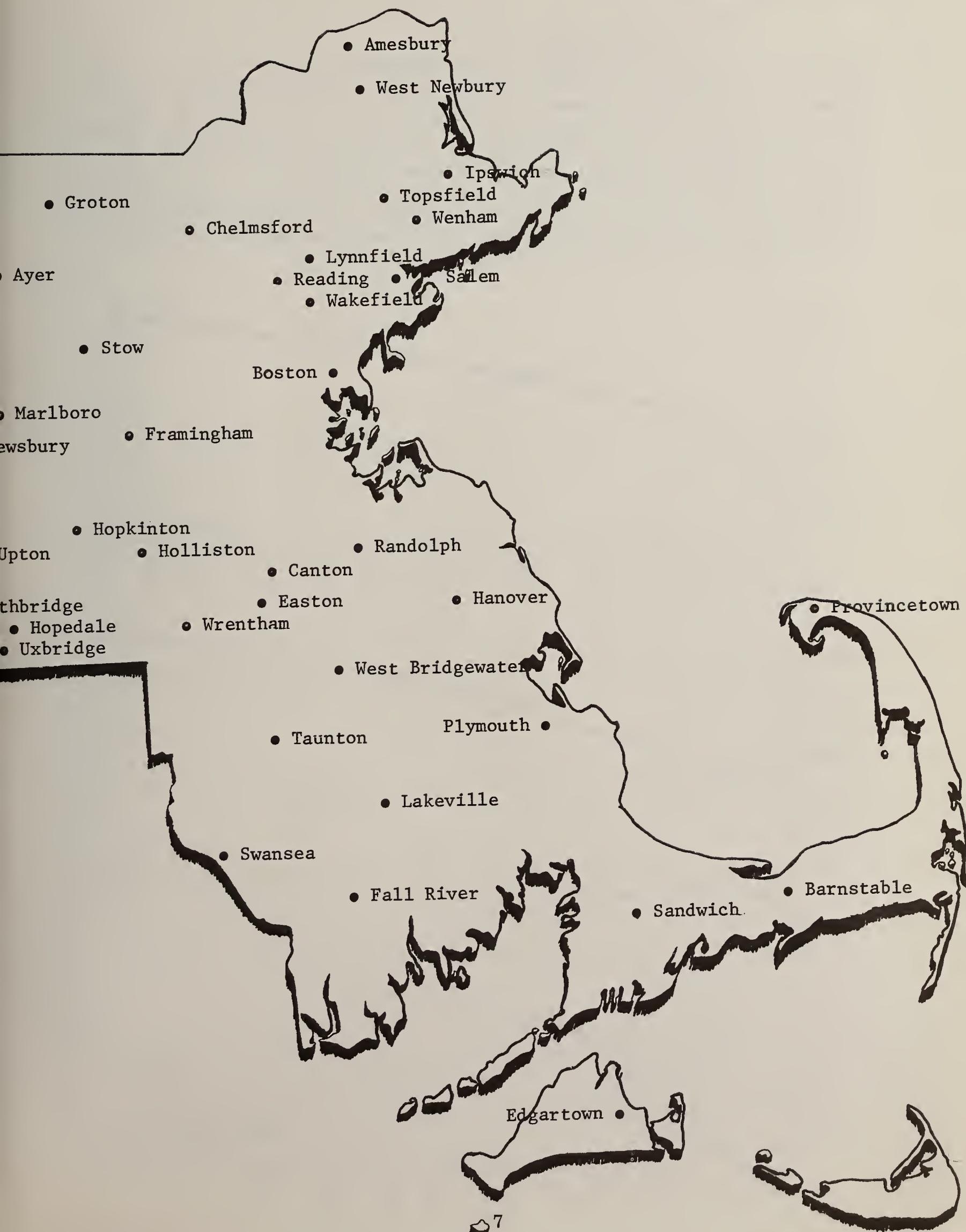
- Aerial Ladder Operations
- *Arson
- Automatic Sprinkler Systems
- Basic Supply and Attack Hoselines
- Electricity
- Engine Company Ladders
- Fire Alarm Systems
- *Firefighting Practices I, II
- Fire Investigation and Cause Detection
- Fire Service Training I, II, III
- Flammable Liquids (Water Fog and Dry Chemical Extinguishment)
- Flammable Liquids (Water Fog and Foam Extinguishment)
- *Masks
- Mini Course (specially designed for call and volunteer firefighters)
- Officer Training I, II, III
- Protective Breathing, Search and Rescue
- Pump Operator Course
- Pumps and Hydraulics
- Recruit Course
- Supply Lines for Sprinklers and Master Streams
- Tactics and Strategy for the Firefighter
- Vehicle Extrication (Comprehensive)
- Vehicle Extrication for the EMT

*Indicates courses which were phased out under course restructuring and expansion.

regional training locations

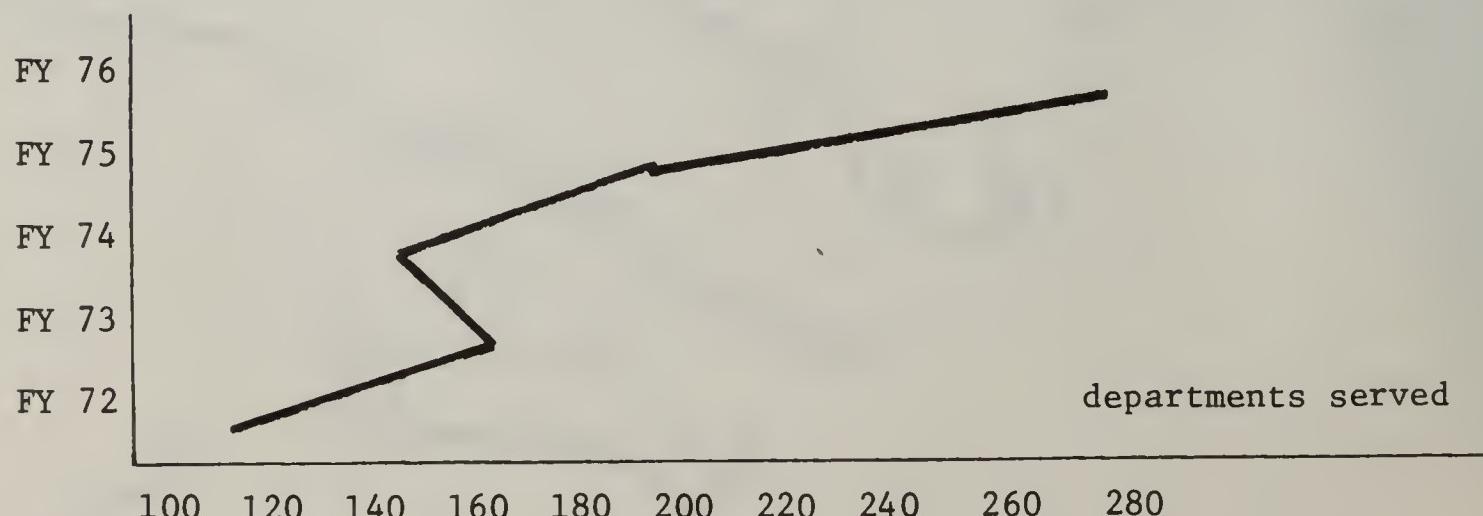
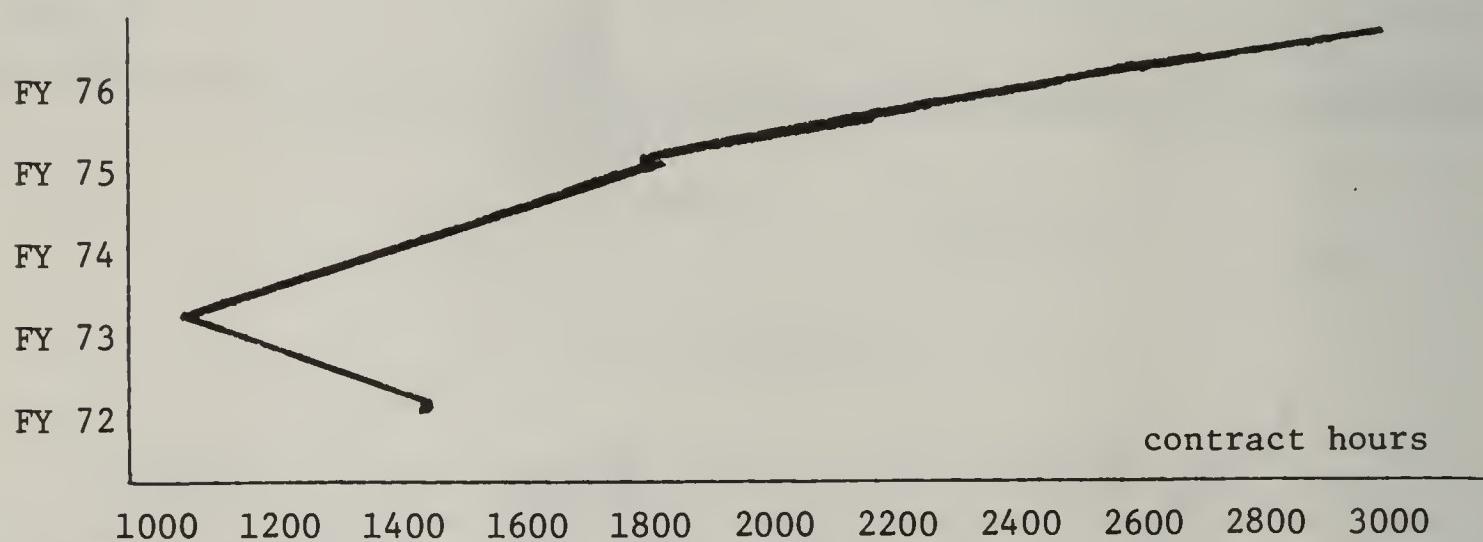
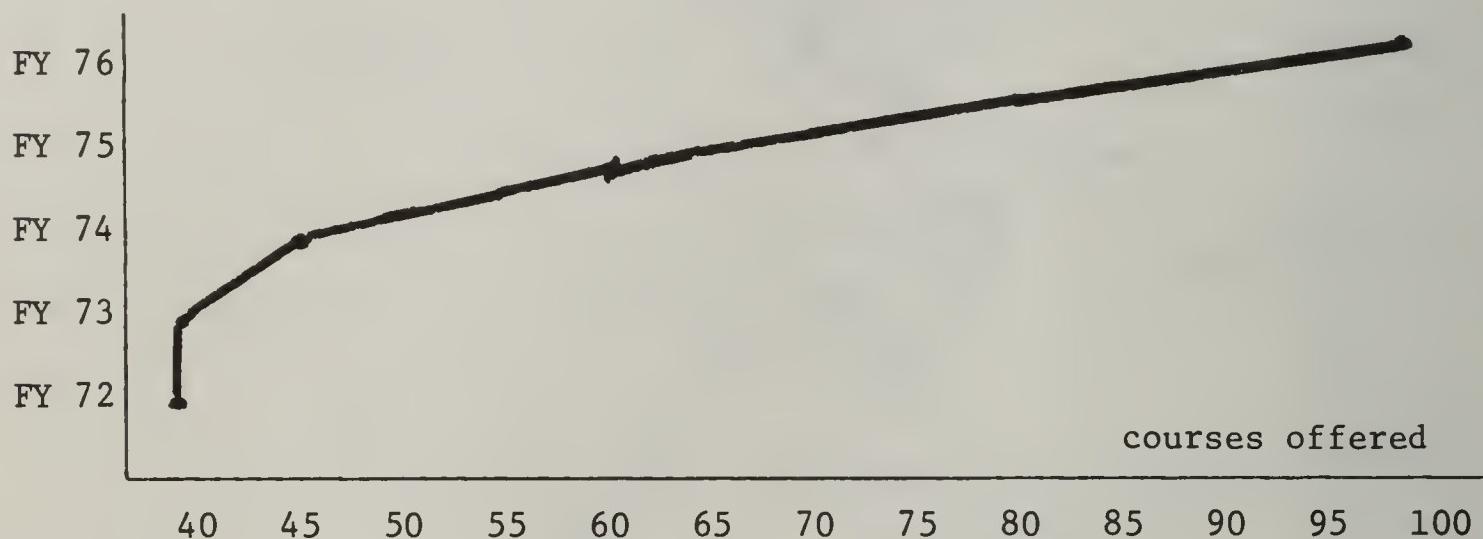
- North Adams
- Dalton
- Lenox
- West Stockbridge
- Otis
- Huntington
- Deerfield
- Amherst
- Northampton
- Holyoke
- Westover AFB
- Chicopee
- Ludlow
- Greenfield
- Athol
- Hubbardston
- Hardwick
- Oakham
- Spencer
- Brimfield
- Gardner
- Sterling
- Holden
- Auburn

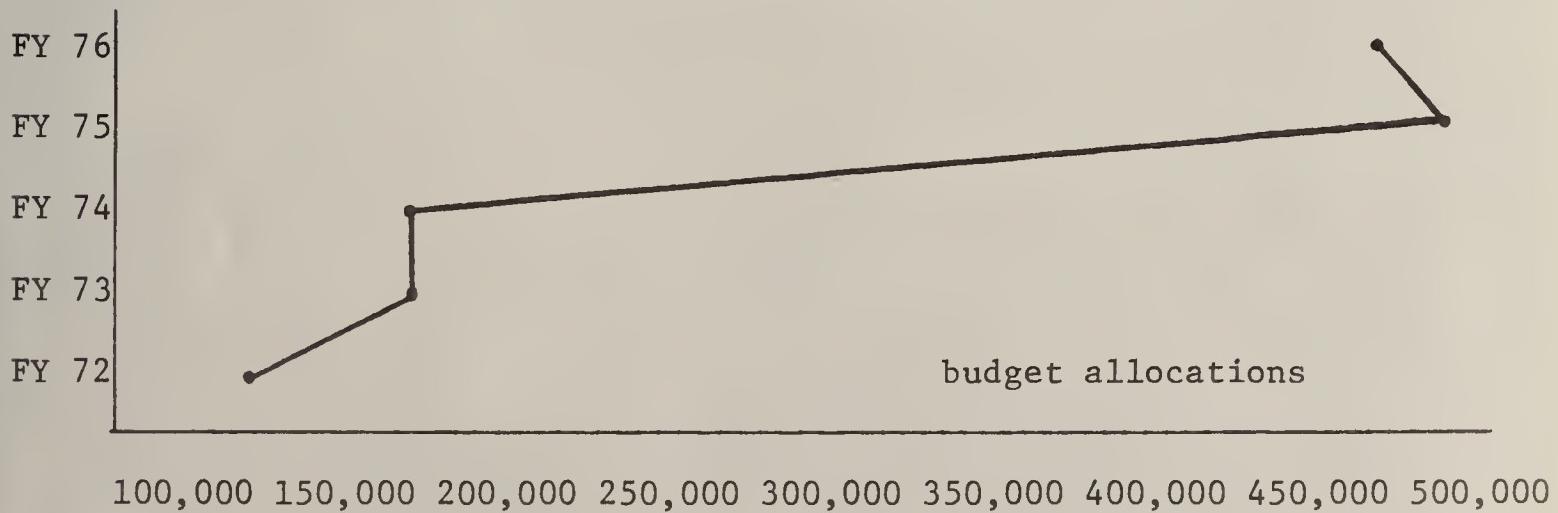
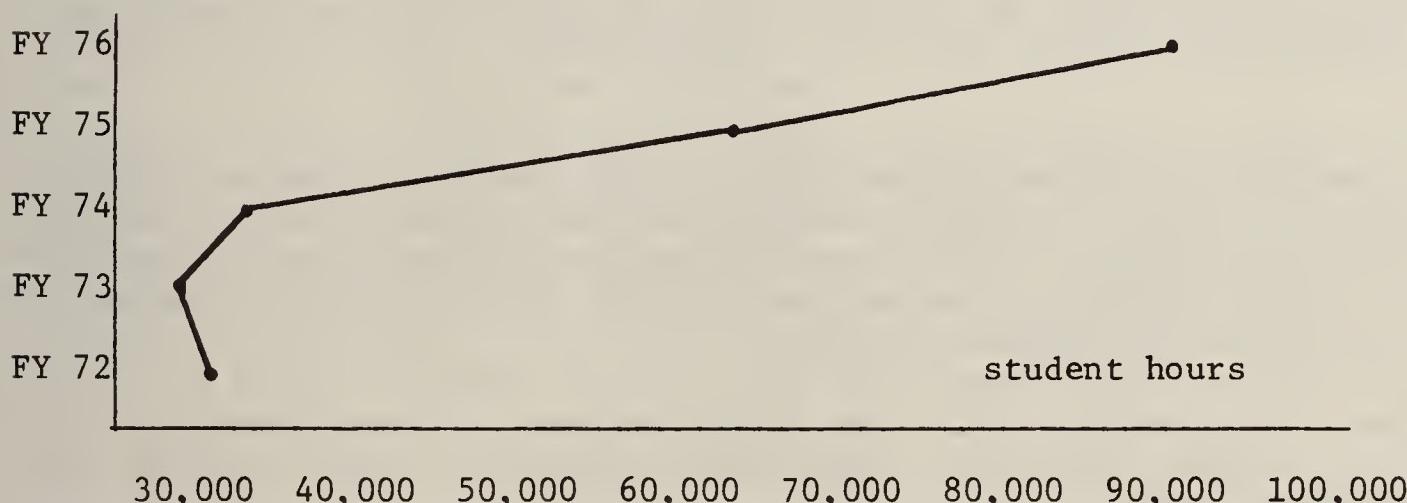
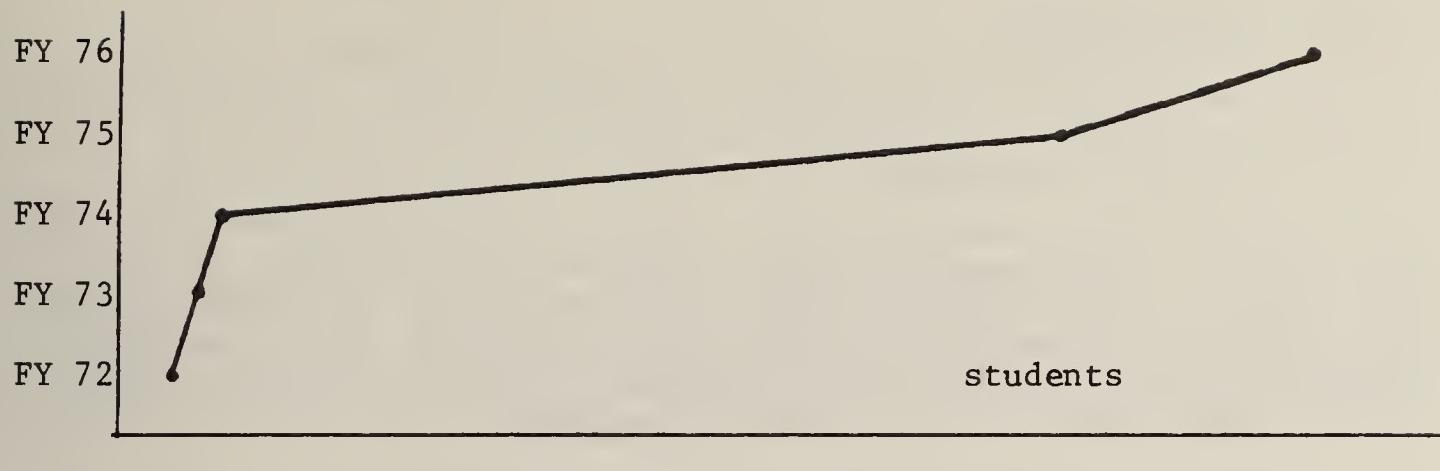
Through the courtesy and cooperation of the respective fire chiefs, training facilities within local fire departments have been made available to the Academy for conducting regional programs. During Fiscal 1976, regional courses were offered by the Academy at the locations indicated here.



service expansion

One of the more concrete examples of Academy growth has been found in the comparison of figures over the past five fiscal years. As shown in the representations below, a great deal of expansion of services has taken place since the Academy's beginnings. Categories of services depicted here are: the number of courses offered by the Academy to Commonwealth fire personnel; the number of hours spent by Academy programs; the total number of students who successfully completed Academy courses and the number of hours devoted by all students to all Academy courses. The strong forward motion of the figures is a clear indication of the rapid growth of the Academy itself, and will, hopefully, be a continuing trend.





The sole aspect of Academy operations, which has taken a downward turn, is in the area of budget allocations. This decrease, which places a great restraint on training capabilities, has been dealt with by Academy staff. However, the entire fire service community as well as the public at large, would surely benefit from the increased activity which would be made possible by budgetary growth.

instructor development

The development and maintenance of a full complement of top quality instructors is a task requiring both concerted and continual effort by the Academy's staff. The constant growth enjoyed by the Academy has made instructor recruitment a high priority project, and a systematic sequence has been established, notwithstanding the evaluation of usage, for the development of a roster of instructors.

Any individual who exhibits interest in instructing is first required to take a thirty-hour municipal instructors training course. On successful completion of this course, the candidate applies to the Academy and is interviewed by the director of the Instructor Recruitment and Certification Unit, who advises the applicant of Academy procedures and regulations.

He is asked to select two or three subject areas in which he would like to specialize, and must then audit Academy courses in those subjects on his own time. He then is categorized as an apprentice instructor, and during thirty to sixty hours of apprenticeship, observing full instructors' courses in his subject area, he will be gradually worked into teaching the course himself.

When the apprentice feels that he is competent, he may request to take the lieutenant instructor examination, passage of which will make him a full instructor.



Throughout his experience as an instructor at the Massachusetts Fire-fighting Academy, every instructor, regardless of rank or experience, is regularly evaluated by the program specialist in his subject area or, in some cases, by the director of the Instructor Recruitment and Certification Unit.

Special orientation days are held at the Academy for instructors within each subject, with the goal of assuring consistency within each course as it is updated or altered. This high rate of consistency is one of the keys to quality learning for the Commonwealth's fire service personnel.

In addition to the regular instructor development process, special professional improvement programs are conducted from time to time to help Academy instructors keep well in tune with current trends in fire service instruction. Instructors participate fully in such special programs as are detailed on the following pages, and other programs are geared especially to the instructors themselves.

Highlights of this year's instructor programs were a presentation on the consideration of behavioral objectives in organizing curricula for vocational education, and an idea-exchange visit to the Delaware State Fire School, including both theoretical and hands-on interchange of methods and techniques in such areas as vehicle extrication, use of protective breathing apparatus and flammable liquid and gas firefighting.

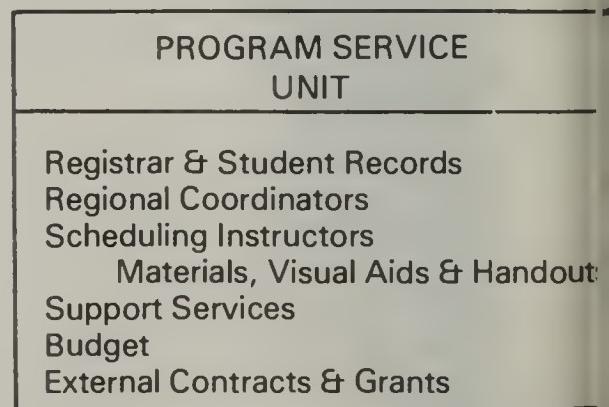
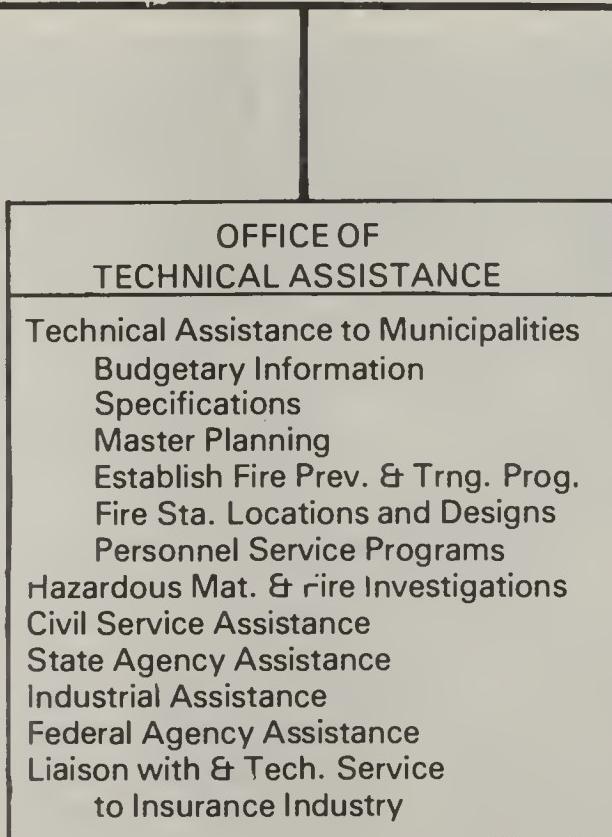
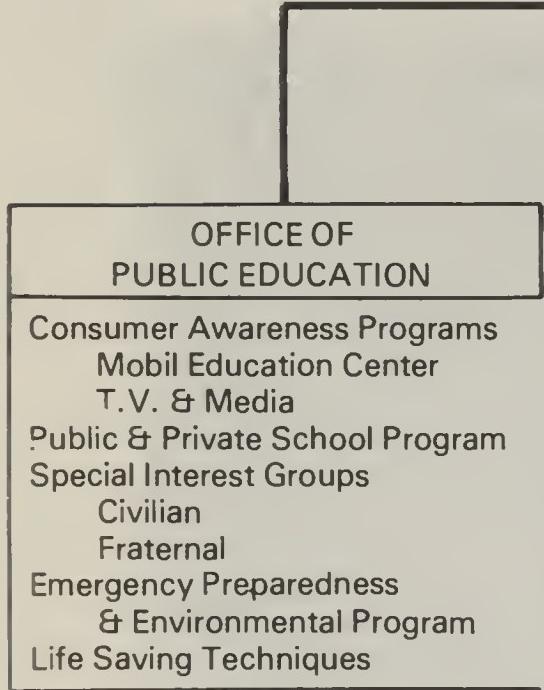
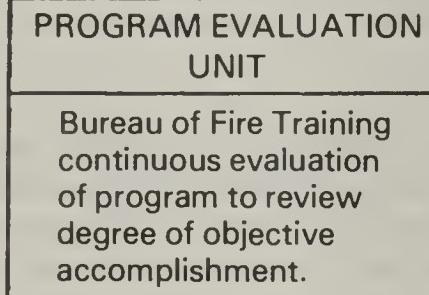
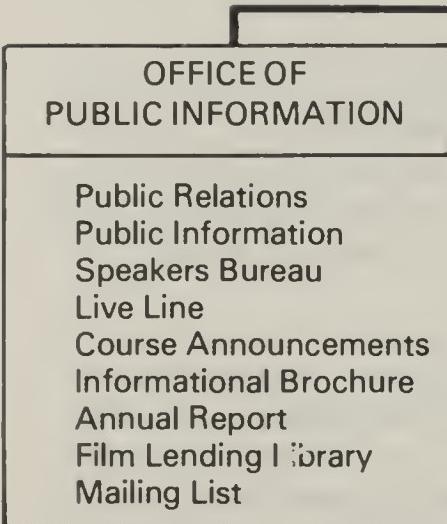


Commonwealth
DEPARTMENT
Division of Occupations
BUREAU OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY

Mass. Fire Protection Bureau

CHIEF OF BUREAU

ASST. CHIEF OF BUREAU



RECRUIT PROGRAMS

CONTINUING EDUCATION

**Massachusetts
EDUCATION
al Education
TRAINING**

**Academy
INING
TRAINING**

**MASSACHUSETTS
FIRE TRAINING
COUNCIL**
7 Members
Appointed by Governor

**EDUCATION COORDINATION
UNIT**
Clearing House for Community
and 4 yr. College Program
& Instructors (Liaison)
Coordination of and
support to external
programs

**OFFICE OF
ADMINISTRATION**

Budget
Purchasing
Personnel
Payroll
Printing
Procedures
Dept. of Ed. Liaison
Security
Maintenance

**OFFICE OF PROGRAM
DEVELOPMENT & RESEARCH**

Curriculum & Course Development
Materials Development and
Validation
Test & Measurement Development
Research Clearing House
Library
Data Center
Data Collection
Data Analysis
Publication Development
Education & Training Research
Master Plan Development & Validation
Proposal Development
Contract & Grant Administration
& Monitoring

**INSTRUCTOR RECRUITMENT
AND CERTIFICATION UNIT**

Instructor Recruitment
Instructor Training
Certification of Instructors
Instructor Evaluation
Instructor Records
Instructor Improvement Programs

**SPECIAL
PROGRAMS**

OR
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GRAMS

organization

When the National Commission on Fire Prevention and Control presented its findings to Congress in the book America Burning in 1973, the extent of America's fire losses was documented for the first time. The facts were shocking, and the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration was established with the charge of halving American fire losses within a generation, through improved data collection and analysis, and updated programs for fire prevention as well as suppression.

Here in Massachusetts, a fire service needs assessment was conducted shortly thereafter, which showed that the Commonwealth reflected the national trend of excessively high losses. Recognition of the need for increased training for fire service personnel including both regular manipulative training and specialized seminars and other programs, led the Academy to undertake a re-organization which would lend itself to planned and efficient expansion and improvement in the training of the state's fire service.

The new organizational chart, shown on pages 11 and 12, represents the current operations of the Academy, while allowing almost unlimited growth potential in the future. All offices and units are, at this time, functional to some degree, though a few segments have been either recently initiated or are awaiting the naming of a permanent director.

Under the direction of Chief of Fire Training Edward McCormack and Assistant Chief of Fire Training John Harrington, the Academy works in conjunction with the Fire Training Council to meet the changing needs of the Massachusetts fire service.

Directly responsible to the Chief of Fire Training are the Office of Public Information (under the direction of Jan Thomas), the Office of Administration (directed by Frank Winslow), the Program Evaluation Unit (headed by Josiah Frost), the Education Coordination Unit (headed by Herbert Wilson) and the Assistant Chief of Operations (Timothy Herlihy).

Responsible to the Chief of Fire Training through the Assistant Chief of Operations are the Office of Public Education (directed by Robin Lowe), the Office of Technical Assistance (under the direction of Peter Galuffo), the Office of Program Research and Development (headed by Lawrence Faria) and the Office of Program Services (headed by Frederick Lyons).

Within the Office of Program Services are the Program Service Unit (under the direction of Robert Spofford), the Instructor Recruitment and Certification Unit (headed by Paul Anderson), Recruit Programs (directed by Harold Mararian), Continuing Training and Education Programs (headed by Linwood Lowell) and Special Programs (without a director at this time).

special programs

With each successive year the Massachusetts Fire Training Council and Firefighting Academy have become further involved with special programs for the fire service in the Commonwealth. The importance of these programs, as supplements to the regular courses offered by the Academy, cannot be measured, providing as they do the opportunity for fire personnel to expand their horizons and to update themselves on the "state of the art."

A wide variety of these special programs were presented during Fiscal Year 1976, including the continuation of some programs which had begun in previous years as well as initiation of a number of new, in many cases innovative, projects.

The fire service, in the 1970's, is driving hard toward professionalism, an appropriate movement for a field where technology increases both demands and capabilities on a continual basis, making continuing learning imperative. New materials and methods in industry and in the community at large necessitate the utilization of more and more modern firefighting methods and materials when a fire breaks out. Continual updating is the only way to assure the most effective and the safest fire suppression and extinguishment possible.

The most efficient means for attaining the learning necessary for modern fire protection is, in many cases, through intensive activities such as symposiums, seminars and conferences. The Firefighting Academy, both independently and in cooperation with other concerned agencies and organizations, has been extremely active in these programs during Fiscal Year 1976.

A summary follows which will provide an overview of the types of such programs which have been undertaken this year.



civil service

In April of 1975, the Massachusetts Board of Education charged the Fire-fighting Academy with developing and conducting courses in preparation for the upcoming Civil Service examination for firefighters in the Commonwealth. The last previous exam had been given more than four years earlier, and the new exam would follow an entirely new style.

The Academy developed an eighteen-hour course, in both English and Spanish, to prepare applicants for the exam. The course was offered in forty locations and, through a massive outreach program and with cooperation from many fire departments, social workers, educators, radio and television stations and newspapers, more than six thousand persons attended the preparatory course sessions, of which nearly half were members of minority or other disadvantaged groups.

Throughout this training program, the Academy also assisted Civil Service in validating its newly devised strength and agility test, providing personnel to administer the test to present firefighters to assure its validity for prospective firefighters. More than three hundred firefighters from twenty departments participated in the validation process.

The strength and agility test, which was administered to those who successfully passed the written examinations, got underway in March of 1976, and has been administered to more than three thousand applicants in Boston, Worcester and Springfield. The new test is composed of a series of job-related physical tasks such as handling a 125 pound dummy, climbing a sixty-foot aerial ladder and dragging a 150-foot hoseline. The six-part test was devised by Civil Service in conjunction with a group of selected fire service personnel from throughout the Commonwealth, including input from the Fire-fighting Academy, and is administered for Civil Service by Academy personnel.



Since 1972, the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy has been involved, with representatives of the gas industry and the nationally recognized National Fire Protection Association of Boston, in a project to develop and conduct a model training program to update firefighters on modern flammable gas firefighting techniques.

The handling of flammable gas emergencies, both burning and prior to ignition upon escape from storage, piping or transportation containers, requires the use of techniques which must be learned and updated constantly. Application of techniques suitable to extinguishing ordinary combustibles, such as wood or paper, may increase the danger when applied to flammable gases or liquids, resulting in needless loss, injury or even death.

Recent increases in the use of LP gas, and the introduction of liquified natural gas and refrigerated propane, have multiplied the need for the development of a broad, standardized and continuing program of training for both municipal and industrial fire suppression personnel. While some programs have attacked portions of the problem, no comprehensive program exists anywhere in the United States.

With support exceeding \$65,000 from the gas industries in the Commonwealth, the development committee has researched and developed an appropriate curriculum, designed field exercise and training equipment, procured training materials and provided and obtained funding for initial establishment of the course including instructor training and preparation. A training site has been made available in Hopkinton which will include both classroom facilities and hands-on training props. The central prop will be a unique water-jacketed pressure vessel which will simulate both insulated and uninsulated liquefied gas containers, safely providing for repeated large gas fire exposures. Site preparation is nearing completion at this time.

The courses, which are slated to get underway this fall, are structured to be readily adaptable to industrial gases, such as hydrogen, oxygen and chlorine. Sessions will be tailored to the needs of industrial personnel as well as to municipal firefighters, and will address both command decision making and tactical attack problems.

master planning

With the rapid forward movement of the fire service in recent years, each state must be well prepared for modern fire training in all areas. Prevention, inspection, suppression, training, administration, research and development are all equally important in today's view. The image of the local fire department doing nothing except extinguishing the occasional fire is quickly being replaced by a new image: the dynamic, active, concerned, professional group of individuals dedicated to overall fire safety for all citizens.

Massachusetts is ready to meet the challenge implied by all these changes, and has initiated an ambitious Master Planning project that will place the Commonwealth among the nation's leaders. The Training Council, together with the Academy and all other segments of the state's fire service, began the project in 1974, and will continue the effort to the production of a system to fulfill the needs of the Massachusetts fire service and all its components, including all permanent and call firefighters, both paid and volunteer, as well as fire mechanics, fire prevention and inspection officers, fire training and education personnel, arson investigators, fire protection engineers, fire alarm technicians and communications specialists. Master Planning will also provide for interaction with related fields, such as educators, Emergency Medical Technicians, architects, building inspectors and other municipal officials, or others who may become involved to some degree with fire reduction efforts.

Four Technical Committees were established in 1975 to carry out the Master Planning charge, under the direction of the Training Council.

Technical Committee #1 is assigned the task of Needs Assessment. Its objectives are to identify and categorize the expectations of the fire service and its personnel by analyzing both firefighting and non-fire-fighting functions. The task will also include identifying the apparatus, equipment and personnel required to effectively operate within the constraints of a minimum strike force by analyzing the type, extent, frequency and commonality of fires.

Technical Committee #2 is concerned with Fire Service Performance Standards, and is charged to identify all levels, ranks and functions of personnel within the operational fire service and other public and private agencies providing fire protection within the state. This will include developing minimum performance objectives which all specified levels of fire service personnel must achieve and identifying special levels of performance which may be expected in regions or areas of unique fire incidence.

Technical Committee #3 is working in the area of Course Planning and Development, with the objective of developing a uniform training and education curriculum to provide for all levels of personnel in meeting the required performance objectives as defined by Committee #2. The Committee must also identify the various types of public awareness, public education and course development programs which should be developed and utilized.

Technical Committee #4 will deal with Training Facilities and Resources, identifying the resource, facility, equipment and instructor needs for the training of fire service personnel to reach the desired level of proficiency, and what each agency should provide toward that end. They will also design a delivery system to assure all fire service personnel receive the minimum training specified with the prescribed period of time and within the fiscal restraints which may be applicable.

Many meetings have been held by each Committee since their establishment, both as units and in joint sessions with the Training Council. An initial report has been prepared and has been submitted, in the form of a proposal, to the Federal government. It is an innovative plan, reaching far beyond Master Planning efforts made in other states, in that we alone have recognized the need to examine performance standards prior to concrete planning activity.

The product of the Master Planning effort will be a comprehensive five-year plan which will provide an accurate and up-to-date review and assessment of all statewide fire training and education as it relates to the standardization of professional fire service qualifications and requirements. It will present priorities, based on both current and projected needs, for a long-term strategy for more efficient and effective programs, and will address resource needs in such areas as legislation, reorganization, certification, research and curricula and other development.

The final result, of course, will be the highest possible level of fire protection for the Commonwealth.

in-service training symposium

On Tuesday and Wednesday, October 21 and 22, the Firefighting Academy, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors, (MIFDI), offered a symposium on in-service training for all the fire service, featuring presentations by fire training experts from throughout the United States.

The program, which was attended by more than 120 individuals involved with in-service training in their own departments, Academy instructors and others, took place at Assabet Valley Vocational Technical School in Marlboro. Keynote speaker was David McCormack, retired Deputy Chief of the New York City Fire Department who was appointed Superintendent of the National Fire Academy shortly after, and offered a number of programs in areas of particular interest to fire training personnel.

Among subjects presented were an update on the National Professional Qualification System (Louis Amabili, Director of the Delaware State Fire School and President of the International Society of Fire Service Instructors); justifying in-service training budgets (Jesse Jackson, Assistant Chief with the Orlando, Florida Fire Department); scheduling companies and individuals for in-service training (Morton Shurtleff, Deputy Chief from the Brockton, Massachusetts Fire Department); using performance evaluation instruments (George Harms, Battalion Chief from the Los Angeles, California, County Fire Department); the regional training facility concept (Frank Kelly, Division Chief with the Huntington Beach, California, Fire Department).

Also, training with available resources (Dave White, Instructor at the Firemen's Training School at Texas A & M University); low budget training aids (Harvey Grant, Senior Instructor at the Delaware State Fire School); designing curriculum for in-service training (Warren Isman, Assistant Chief from Montgomery County, Maryland); maintaining effective training records (Earl Fordham, Battalion Chief from Los Angeles County); and a description of the Joint Apprenticeship Program developed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the International Association of Fire Fighters (Floyd Yocum, Director of the Program, Washington, D.C.)

A three-day symposium on the many aspects of firefighting hydraulics was held later in October, from Tuesday through Thursday, October 28 through 30, again at Assabet Valley School, and with attendance again over one hundred. Representatives of several equipment manufacturers and fire departments were on hand, offering oral presentations and conducting field demonstrations for the assembled fire service personnel.

Programs offered included discussions of the advantages and disadvantages of single- and two-stage pumps (Michael Waldrock, Waterous Company); water supply (Chief Thomas Barry of the El Cerrito, California, Fire Department); hydraulics associated with high rise buildings (Captain William McHugh, Boston Fire Department); pump operator standards (Barry Bush, New Hampshire's Director of Fire Training); automatic nozzles (Chief C. H. McMillan of the Hobart, Indiana, Fire Department); computerized pumbers (Jack McLaughlin, Fire Research); water additives ("rapid water") (Milton Brodey, retired Deputy Chief of the New York City Fire Department, consultant to Union Carbide); the mini-maxi pumper concept (Deputy Chief Frank Burke, Syracuse, New York); large diameter hose (Leo Hurme, Chief of the Princeton, Massachusetts Fire Department); and service testing of fire department pumbers (Chief Robert Fitz, Hampton, New Hampshire).

Field demonstrations were conducted on the third day, and included visual reinforcement for earlier presentations on service-testing pumbers, large diameter hose, nozzle operations, the automatic pumper, high expansion and A.F.F. foams, use of foams, and water additives.



equipment demonstrations

New or important equipment and products are demonstrated from time to time by the Academy, providing the opportunity for fire service personnel in the Commonwealth to examine the equipment, enabling them to make carefully considered judgements regarding possible use of the products in their own departments.

Highlights of this year's offerings were demonstrations of the Multi Emergency Response Vehicle (MERV) as manufactured by the Hurst Safety Products Division of Hurst Performance, Inc., and of the "super wet" detergent foam concentrate known as Ultrafoam manufactured by the Mine Safety Appliance Co. These demonstrations, which were held in November at the Academy site in Stow, were attended by nearly one hundred of the state's fire service personnel.

The MERV is equipped with various storage tanks, pumps, hose inlets and outlets, booster hose reels, generator, flood lights, public address/siren system, and may be ordered with the Hurst vehicle rescue tool known as the "Jaws of Life," penetrator, hammer drill, folding ladder, trauma bag, respirator, dry chemical extinguisher, stretcher, transportation cart, and other rescue equipment as needed by an individual department or other agency who purchases a MERV, providing a compact collection of a variety of important rescue and firefighting equipment in one vehicle.

Ultrafoam is a foam concentrate with high water retention and high transition temperature, creating long-lasting foam from either high- or low-expansion equipment. It is simple and quick to use, offers minimum draining, quick and easy cleanup, and is biodegradable. Also valuable as a wetting agent, it is available in special grades to meet unusual water or temperature conditions. The use of foams in modern firefighting provides innumerable possibilities for safer and more effective fire suppression for automobiles, in residences and garages, industrial plants, petroleum refineries, chemical plants, on shipboard, and warehouses, with both ordinary combustibles and flammable gases and liquids.

In addition to these special demonstrations, an innovative four-way hydrant valve was demonstrated during the hydraulics seminar in October. This new valve, enabling firefighters to connect up to four hose lines to a hydrant without disconnecting or otherwise stopping the flow from the hydrant without disconnecting or otherwise stopping the flow from the hydrant and pumper to other lines, provides greater flexibility and a wider range of extinguishment possibilities for fire service personnel.

public education conference

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, in conjunction with the National Fire Education Center of the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration (NFPCA), sponsored the first New England Fire Safety Conference in Chicopee on Saturday and Sunday, January 31 and February 1, 1976. It was the first in a series of such regional meetings throughout the country following an initial NFPCA conference of this nature in College Park, Maryland in November.

Aimed at the development of comprehensive fire prevention and safety programs on the local level, the conference presented fifteen public education programs which have been utilized effectively and economically in other locations. The program offered the opportunity for participants to examine, discuss and evaluate the programs for possible adaptation to their own communities. Representatives of many disciplines, including the fire service, insurance organizations, government, education and the media comprised discussion panels which served as boosters of idea exchanges following each session.

Programs presented during the two-day conference included:

Junior High School Fire Safety Education (Chief Wyman Johnson and Fire-fighter Alan Lazzari, Weston Fire Department); Student Awareness of Fire and EMS in South Portland, Maine (Chief Philip McGouldrick and Lt. Thomas Cook, S. Portland, Maine Fire Department); Who Says Fire Prevention Education has to be Dull? (Nancy Dennis, Fire Service Training Technician, Oklahoma State University); Involvement of Fire Suppression Personnel in Public Education (Chief Lawrence Pairitz and Lonni Jackson, Public Information Officer, Mount Prospect, Illinois, Fire Department); Home and Apartment Safety and Public Code Enforcement Program (Deputy Chief Edward Proli, Miami, Florida); Code Enforcement and Junior Fire Program (Capt. Silas Clarke, Los Angeles City, California); and Who Should Be Involved in Fire Safety Education? (Chief William McCrossen, New Orleans, Louisiana).

Also, What Arson Can Cost the Consumer, (Michael Lawrence, WJAR-TV, Providence, Rhode Island); Who Really Gets Burned? (Gene Pell, WBZ-TV, Boston); Fire Prevention Education in Guilford County (Cathy Lohr, Fire Prevention Instructor, Fire Marshal's Office, Guilford, North Carolina); High School Fire Safety Education Program (Patrick Dugan, Firefighter, Schenectady, New York); Home Fire Safety Program (Capt. Silas Clarke, Los Angeles); Think of False Alarms (Joseph Kane, WMUR-TV, Manchester, New Hampshire); Mental Health Fire Safety Training Program (Lawrence Faria, Massachusetts Firefighting Academy and Margaret Pyne, Director, Bureau of Institutional Schools, Massachusetts Department of Education); Captain Noburn (Chief Harry Schneider and Deputy Chief Russell Jenks, Agawam); Fire Education and Behavior Change: The Missing Link (James Kauffman, Human Factors Analyst, Research Division, National Fire Protection Association, Boston); and Prevention of Electrical Burn Injuries (Liz McLaughlin, Director, Burn Prevention, Shriners Burns Institute, Boston).

fire chief conference

The third annual Massachusetts Fire Chief Conference, organized by the Firefighting Academy to foster the professional growth of fire chiefs as management figures as well as addressing more directly fire-related concerns, was held on May 5 in cooperation with the University of Massachusetts Institute for Governmental Services.

The program was conducted at the University's Boston Harbor Campus and provided for an exchange of ideas and information among the chiefs, town managers, selectmen and executive officers who attended the conference. The keynote address was offered by David Lucht, Associate Administrator of the NFPCA in Washington, who spoke on the subject "America Burning: Three Years Later," an update on steps made in the fire service nationally since the publication of that book by the National Commission on Fire Prevention and Control in 1973. Other speakers during the all-day meeting included Program Moderator John Burke, coordinator of the conference within the Institute for Governmental Services and Robert Wood, President of the University of Massachusetts, who welcomed conference participants. Chief of Fire Training Edward H. McCormack, Jr. extended the greetings of the Firefighting Academy and expressed the wish for a productive day. William Hanson, Acting President of the Fire Chiefs Association presented a message from that group. Post-luncheon speakers were Maurice Donahue, Presiding Director of the Institute of Governmental Services and Charles Barry, Secretary of the Executive Office of Public Safety.

"The Massachusetts Reaction" offered an analysis of the state's role in fire service modernization following America Burning. Panelists included: Robert C. Blomquist, Director of Community Safety, Arlington; Lewis C. Burton, Mayor, Haverhill; Frederick H. Reid, Chief of Chelmsford Fire Department; and George H. Paul, Commissioner, Boston Fire Department.

Four workshops were conducted during the afternoon. A session on "Living With the Contract in the Fire Service," was moderated by James Cooper, Chairman of the Massachusetts Labor Relations Commission and a discussion panel of Sanford Kowal, Attorney at Law; Robert Manning of Angoff, Goldman, Manning, Pyle and Wanger. "The Firefighters' Examination", was moderated by Wallace H. Kountze, Personnel Administrator for the Executive Office for Administrative and Finance, with a panel of Chief Edward Borowiec, Chicopee Fire Department; Mark Furstenberg, former Director of Personnel, Boston Police Department; T. Dustin Alward, President of the Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts, AFL-CIO-CLC; and Marc Seigle, Assistant Attorney General in the Commonwealth's Civil Rights Division. "Building a Coordinated Statewide Fire Agency," was moderated by Anthony Granito, Associate Superintendent of the National Fire Academy, with a panel of Chief Norman Clough, Malden Fire Department; Chief James Shern, Pasadena California Fire Department; Deputy Chief Morton Shurtleff, Brockton Fire Department; Richard Sylvia, Associate Editor, "Fire Engineering" magazine, and a member, Connecticut Commission for Fire Prevention and Control. "Emergency Medical Services," with a panel consisting of Chief Don Hickman, Miami, Florida Fire Department; Chief Robert Greenough, Chatham Fire Department, and Richard Hatfield, M.D., Chief of Emergency Medical Services, Saint Anne's Hospital, Fall River.

arson action group

Beginning in April of 1976, the Academy, working with the state Fire Marshal's office, initiated the Massachusetts Arson Action Group, composed of representatives of state and local fire and police agencies, the insurance industry, the court system and legislators. With the intent of diminishing the serious losses by arson in the Commonwealth through various channels, the Group met initially in Lexington for a two-day intensive brainstorming session, and has carried on from there, developing a specific set of priorities for the attack on arson.

The Academy is serving as a secretariat and coordinator for the Arson Group, with its own related goal of development of viable training and education programs for the state's fire service in all aspects of fire-fighting, inspection and investigation which relate to the arson problem.

Arson specialists from various fields and from throughout the United States offered presentations during the initial meeting, which was moderated by NBC News Washington correspondent Peter Hackes. He was selected by President Richard Nixon to serve as the news media representative on the National Commission on Fire Prevention and Control, which was convened in 1970 and presented its final report, America Burning, two years later. Howard Tipton, NFPCA Administrator from Washington, who also served on the Commission, came to Lexington to address the Group.

As a result of the April meeting, the Academy was directed to arrange meetings with various District Attorneys or their representatives, and with a geographical selection of fire and police chiefs from throughout Massachusetts to discuss their respective roles in combating arson. Both meetings were highly productive, with definitive action facilitated by each, in terms of the development of arson specialists within District Attorneys' offices, and the coordination of combined fire-police arson units on the local level. In each case, the aim is to utilize each discipline's specific expertise to best attack the arson problem.

Also, a flow chart, providing a systems approach to arson investigation, showing a chain of events from the initial receipt of an alarm through the conviction and sentencing of an arson suspect, is being developed by the Academy, with input from the State Police Academy; a rewards system, encouraging witnesses to report their knowledge to officials, is being investigated by the insurance subcommittee of the Group.

The entire Arson Action Group project is expected to be finalized within six months, at which time actions determined by the Group will be begun, in areas of prevention, public education, laboratory facilities, training and education, data collection, insurance policy writing, development of better communications, reclassification of arson as a Class One Crime, local level investigation, prosecuting attorneys and development of sources of funding.

Summary

While no written report can do justice to the work of an agency through an entire year, the preceding pages have attempted to provide a written overview of the more outstanding efforts of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council and Firefighting Academy.

The hard work and long hours devoted by the men and women of these agencies to the fire service of the Commonwealth has consistently resulted in high quality training programs on and for all levels of the fire community, and continued success will mean the safest possible situation for the citizens of the Commonwealth. Well-trained fire personnel will mean not only the most effective and efficient fire extinguishment and victim rescue, but also the very best fire inspection and prevention, the highest goal of all: not simply fire suppression, but fire prevention.

The Massachusetts Fire Training Council and Firefighting Academy are already among the leaders of the fire service nationwide, moving forward to update and upgrade fire protection through modernization. But the task is monumental and has just begun; Massachusetts looks toward the future with high expectations for an improved fire loss record, preventing the preventable fires, and fighting those that do occur with the least possible human and property loss. We are on our way!

Coming in FY-1977:

- * Model curriculum for public fire safety education geared for the young child.
- * Outreach program to educate firefighters on latest methods, materials and hazards in specific areas.
- * Mobile education unit stressing sound home fire safety through both detection and escape plans, aimed at the fire service and the public.
- * Weekend seminars to provide increased opportunities for learning experiences in fire service training, especially for part-time firefighters whose weekdays are devoted to other employment.
- * A wide range of special programs in areas of interest and importance to both the fire community and the community at large.

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